

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 L-01 EB-04 IGA-01

MMS-01 OES-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

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P 011645Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3088

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7300

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: AID PHASE-OUT

REF: A) STATE 232904; B) QUITO 7166

1. ON OCTOBER 30, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HEMENWAY AND USAID MISSION DIRECTOR CODY MET WITH FINANCE MINISTER JAIME MONCAYO TO EXPLAIN USAID TRANSITION TO REIMBURSABLE TC AND GIVE MINFIN COPY OF AIDE MEMOIRE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED MINISTER FORIEGN RELATIONS.

2. AFTER HEARING EXPLANATION AND QUICKLY READING THE AM, MONCAYO INDICATED THAT ANY DEFINITIVE RESPONSE WOULD REQUIRE GOE STUDY WHICH HE ANTICIPATED WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN A MEASURED, UNEMOTIONAL AND BUSINESSLIKE MANNER. WE STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES RELATED TO THE FINANCING OF US PARTICIPATION AND THAT THE USG RECOGNIZED THE OVERWHELMING CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND STOOD READY TO CONTINUE A TECHNICAL PARTICIPATION.

3. MONCAYO INDICATED THAT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL "SMELLED OF PETROLEUM" AND ASKED WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES WERE SIMILARLY AFFECTED. WE INDICATED THAT WHILE IT WAS OBVIOUSLY TRUE THAT PETROLEUM REVENUES WERE WHAT HAD CHANGED ECUADOR'S FINANCIAL PICTURE AND ITS REDUCED NEED FOR CONCESSIONAL
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ASSISTANCE, THERE WERE OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAD DIMINISHED

OUR AID (BRAZIL AND KOREA) OR WERE PHASING IT OUT (TURKEY AND PREVIOUSLY MEXICO, ARGENTINA, TAIWAN AND OTHERS) WHOSE IMPROVED FINANCIAL POSITION WAS NOT RELATED TO PETROLEUM. AMONG THE LDCS WHOSE POSITION AS OIL PRODUCERS WAS IN SOME RESPECTS EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF ECUADOR WE DID MENTION INDONESIA AND NIGERIA, BUT SAID NOTHING ABOUT SPECIFIC USAID PLANDS FOR THESE COUNTRIES, NOR DID MONCAYO BRING THE MATTER UP FURTHER.

4. WE EMPHASIZED THAT FOR USAID TO CONTINUE TO OBTAIN FUNDS FROM CONGRESS TO ASSIST THOSE COUNTRIES MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY WORLDWIDE INFLATION, WE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE METHOD OF FINANCING ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO WERE RELATIVELY BETTER OFF. HENCE THE PROPOSED TRANSITION.

5. MONCAYO DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON THE FACT THAT THERE WOULD BE THE POLITICAL INCONGRUITY OF RECEIVING DONATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHOSE TRADE AND HISTORIC RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR WERE FAR LESS THAN WITH THE US, AND EVEN THE U.K. WHOSE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IS LESS FAVORABLE THAN THE US, WHILE RECEIVING TC FROM THE US ON A LOAN BASIS. HE IS AWARE THAT THE SIZE OF THESE OTHER BILATERAL PROGRAMS IS SMALL RELATIVE TO THE USAID PROGRAM BUT CONSIDERED THE PRINCIPLE IMPORTANT.

6. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT, IF THE GOE ACCEPTS THE TC LOAN PROPOSAL, IT BE NEGOTIATED AT THE CENTRAL POINT WITHIN THE GOE. MONCAYO AGREED AND SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY BE THE COMMITTEE OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WHICH INCLUDES THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD, THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CENTRAL BANK, AND THE MINISTER IN WHOSE JURISDICTION THE PROGRAM IS INVOLVED. THIS RAISED THE QUESTION AS TO THE DEGREE TO WHICH SUCH A LOAN HAD TO BE RELATED TO ONGOING PROJECTS. DEALING WITH A CENTRAL FOCUS POINT IN THE GOE COULD SURFACE DIFFERENT PRIORITIES THAN DEALING INDIVIDUALLY WITH SEPARATE MINISTRIES AS HERETOFORE ON THE BASIS AID PREDETERMINED AREAS OF CONCENTRATION. MONCAYO HOPED THERE WOULD BE U.S. FLEXIBILITY ON THIS POINT. HE ALSO ASKED WHAT THE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN MIGHT BE. WE

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EXPLAINED THAT WE DID NOT ANTICIPATE STARTING FROM A FIXED AMOUNT BUT RATHER CONSIDERING THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMS AND POSSIBLY RELATED ACTIVITIES AND ARRIVING AT A TOTAL IN THAT FASHION. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION, WE POINTED OUT THAT THE TOTAL GRANT PROGRAM IN THE THREE AREAS OF CONCENTRATION TO BE OBLIGATED FOR FY 75 IS ESTIMATED AT ROUGHLY TWO MILLION DOLLARS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THE DISCUSSION WAS CORDIAL AND BUSINESSLIKE, MONCAYO WAS MORE RESERVED IN MANNER THAN HE USUALLY IS IN DISCUSSING AID MATTERS, AND EXPRESSED CLEAR DISAPPOINTMENT AT OUR PRESENTING HIM WITH "ONE MORE PROBLEM." HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER PREVIOUSLY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER BUT WE SURMISE HE HAD NOT, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WAS NOT COMPLETELY SURPRISED AT OUR PRESENTATION. WE ANTICIPATE THAT WHILE HE WILL BE A REASONABLE VOICE IN THE GOE IN FORMULATING A RESPONSE, HE WILL ALSO ADVOCATE A BARGAINING POSITION THAT WILL MAXIMIZE THE US CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT AS THEY SEE IT.
HEMENWAY

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